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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. M-4540-1C US

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier Robert A. Foster

Title Data Processing System for Complex Pricing and Transactional Analysis

Express Mail Label No. EL 487 714 281 US

## APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form - see page 2 of this form.  
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)

## 2. Application:

- ☒ Specification: (preferred arrangement set forth below)  
Descriptive title of the Invention,  
Cross References to Related Applications,  
Reference to Microfiche Appendix,  
Background of the Invention,  
Brief Summary of the Invention,  
Brief Description of the Drawings, and  
Detailed Description (all totaling 25 pages)  
Appendix(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_ (pages)

- ☒ Claims 8 pages

- ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure 1 page

3. ☒ Drawings (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 6]

4. Oath or Declaration ☒ [Total Pages 2]

- a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)

- b. ☒ Copy from prior application (37 CFR §1.63(d))  
(for continuations/divisional with Box 17 completed)

- c. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)

Signed statement attached designating inventor(s)

named in the prior application, see 37 CFR

1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. ☒ Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

## ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

6. ☒ Microfiche Computer Program Appendix  
consisting of 4 pages of microfiche containing 320 frames on each page in accompanying envelope.

7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
(if applicable, all necessary)

- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy  
b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)  
c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

## ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents) \_\_\_\_\_ pages

9. ☐ 37 CFR §3.73(b) Statement ☒ Power of Attorney  
(combined when there is an with Patent Declaration  
Assignee) above.)

10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)

11. ☐ Information Disclosure \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of IDS  
Statement (IDS) & ☐ PTO-1449 Citations/References

12. ☒ Preliminary Amendment 7 pages

13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(should be specifically itemized)

14. Small Entity Status

- ☐ Small Entity Statement Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ pages  
☐ Statement filed in prior application; and  
status still proper and desired  
☐ Is no longer claimed.

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)

16. ☐ Other:

- ☐ Copy of Petition for Extension of Time filed in parent appln.;

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information and a preliminary amendment:

- ☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional of prior application No. 08/904,716

Filed on August 1, 1997, entitled: Data Processing System For Complex Pricing And Transactional Analysis

- \* PRIOR APPLICATION INFORMATION: Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Group Art Unit \_\_\_\_\_

## 18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Labelor ☒ Correspondence address below

Name Edward C. Kwok

Reg. No. 33,938

Attorneys for Applicant

SKJERVEN, MORRILL, MacPHERSON, FRANKLIN &amp; FRIEL LLP

Address 25 Metro Drive, Suite 700

City

San Jose

State

CA

Zip Code

95110

Country:

United States

Telephone

(408) 453-9200

Fax

(408) 453-7979

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15761 U.S. PTO

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**19. Fee calculations.**

CLAIMS (Number Filed)	(1) FOR	(2)	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) CALCULATIONS
40	TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(c))	-20	= 20	x \$18	= \$ 360.00
2	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(b))	-3	= 0	x \$78	= \$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (if applicable) (37 CFR 1.18(d))			+ \$260.00	=
				BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a))	= \$ 690.00
				Total of above Calculations	= \$1,050.00
				Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (Note 31 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28)	=
				TOTAL	= \$1,050.00

**NO FILING FEE AT THIS TIME**21. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_**NOTE:**

The prior application's correspondence address will carry over to this UPA UNLESS a new correspondence address is provided below.

**22. NEW CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

Customer Number or Bar Code Label

☐ New correspondence address below

NAME			
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
COUNTRY	TELEPHONE	FAX	

**23. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Skjerven, Morrill, MacPherson, Franklin & Friel LLP 25 Metro Drive, Suite 700 San Jose, CA 95110 Tel. (408) 453-9200 Fax. (408) 453-7979	
Date:	3/27/2000
Name: Edward C. Kwok	Reg. No. 33,938
Signature	
Express Mail Label No.	EL 487 714 281 US

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Foster, Robert A.  
Assignee: Financial Systems Technology  
Title: Data Processing System For Complex Pricing And Transactional Analysis  
Serial No.: Unknown Filing Date: Herewith  
Examiner: Unknown Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Docket No.: M-4540-1C US

San Jose, California  
March 27, 2000

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D. C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows prior to consideration on the merits.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 8, line 12, between "FSC" and "some" insert --;--;

Page 8, line 13, between "and" and "some" insert --;--;

Page 8, line 13, delete "my" and substitute --may--;

Page 9, line 4, delete "140, 150," and substitute --120, 140,--;

Page 10, line 25, delete "transactions" and substitute --transaction--;

Page 13, line 28, delete "430 450 and 460" and substitute --430, 450, and 470--;

Page 14, line 25, between "service" and "to" add --instance--;

Page 16, line 27, between "account" and "730" add --instance--;

Page 18, line 17, delete "has" and substitute --have--;

Page 18, line 19, delete "has" and substitute --have--;

Page 19, line 26, delete "tables" and substitute --table--;

Page 21, line 1, delete "be"; and

Page 25, line 8, delete "client" and substitute --clients--.

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-46. Please add the following new claims:

~~47.~~ In a computer system, a method for pricing transactions, said method comprising:

creating a database, comprising:

creating a transaction instance corresponding to a transaction;

creating a first production service instance representing an action performed to process said transaction, said first production service instance being linked to said transaction instance by a first relation instance; and

creating a billing service instance representing a billing service related to a pricing of said first production service, said billing service instance being linked to said first production service instance by a second relation instance.

48. The method of claim 47, further comprising creating a second production service instance linked to said transaction instance by said first relation instance.

49. The method of claim 47, further comprising creating a second billing service instance linked to said first production service instance by said second relation instance.

50. The method of claim 47, further comprising creating a second production service instance linked to said transaction instance by a third relation instance.

51. The method of claim 47, further comprising creating a second billing service instance linked to said first production service instance by a third relation instance.

52. The method of claim 47, further comprising creating a third relation instance linking said transaction instance to an account instance.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein said account instance is linked to a client instance by a fourth relation instance.

54. The method of claim 52, further comprising creating a fourth relation instance linking said transaction instance to an entity instance.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein said entity instance is a market segment instance.

56. The method of claim 47, further comprising storing said transaction instance, said production service instance and said billing service instance in at least one entity instance table.

57. The method of claim 56, further comprising storing said first relation instance and said second relation instance in at least one relation instance table.

58. The method of claim 47, further comprising creating a settlement service instance linked to said billing service instance by a third relation instance.

59. The method of claim 47, further comprising:  
creating a price table instance related to said transaction instance;  
wherein said price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein said price table instance is a cost table instance and said price is a cost.

61. The method of claim 59, wherein said price table instance is a fee table instance and said price is a fee.

62. The method of claim 61 further comprising creating a cost table instance related to said fee table instance by a mandatory relation instance.

63. The method of claim 47, further comprising:  
creating an entity instance related to said transaction instance; and  
creating a price table instance related to said entity instance;  
wherein said price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein said entity instance is an account instance.

65. The method of claim 47, further comprising:  
creating a first entity instance related to said transaction instance;  
creating a second entity instance related to said first entity instance; and  
creating a first price table instance related to said second entity instance;  
wherein said first price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein said first entity instance is an account instance and said second entity instance is a client instance.

67. The method of claim 65, further comprising creating a second price table instance related to first entity instance.

68. A database data processing system for pricing transactions, said data processing system comprising:  
means for creating a transaction instance corresponding to a transaction;  
means for creating a first production service instance representing an action performed to process said transaction, said first production service instance being linked to said transaction instance by a first relation instance; and  
means for creating a billing service instance representing a billing service related to a pricing of said first production service, said billing service instance being linked to said first production service instance by a second relation instance.

69. The data processing system of Claim 68, further comprising means for creating a second production service instance linked to said transaction instance by said first relation instance.

70. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a second billing service instance linked to said first production service instance by said second relation instance.

71. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a second production service instance linked to said transaction instance by a third relation instance.

72. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a second billing service instance linked to said first production service instance by a third relation instance.

73. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a third relation instance linking said transaction instance to an account instance.

74. The data processing system of claim 73, wherein said account instance is linked to a client instance by a fourth relation instance.

75. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a fourth relation instance linking said transaction instance to an entity instance.

76. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising at least one entity instance table to store said transaction instance, said production service instance and said billing service instance.

77. The data processing system of claim 76, further comprising at least one relation instance table to store said first relation instance and said second relation instance.

78. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a settlement service instance linked to said billing service instance by a third relation instance.

79. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising:  
means for creating a price table instance related to said transaction instance;  
wherein said price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

80. The data processing system of claim 79, wherein said price table instance is a cost table instance and said price is a cost.

81. The data processing system of claim 79, wherein said price table instance is a fee table instance and said price is a fee.

82. The data processing system of claim 81 further comprising means for creating a cost table instance related to said fee table instance by a mandatory relation instance.

83. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising:  
means for creating an entity instance related to said transaction instance; and  
means for creating a price table instance related to said entity instance;  
wherein said price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

84. The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising:  
means for creating a first entity instance related to said transaction instance;  
means for creating a second entity instance related to said first entity instance; and  
means for creating a first price table instance related to said second entity instance;  
wherein said first price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

85. The data processing system of claim 84, wherein said first entity instance is an account instance and said second entity instance is a client instance.

86. The data processing system of claim 84, further comprising means for creating a second price table instance related to first entity instance.

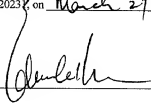


REMARKS

In this continuation application, Claims 1-46 of the parent application, U.S. patent application serial number 08/904,716 are canceled and new Claims 47-86 are added.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant at 408-453-9200.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 27, 2000.



Attorney for Applicant(s)

3/27/2000

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Edward C. Kwok  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 33,938

LAW OFFICES OF  
KIERVEN, MORRILL,  
ACHERSON, FRANKLIN  
& FRIEL LLP

15 METRO DRIVE  
SUITE 700  
SAN JOSE, CA 95110  
(408) 453-9200  
FAX (408) 453-7979

<p>EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EL 487 714 281 US</p>
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DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM FOR COMPLEX  
PRICING AND TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS

Robert A. Foster

CROSS REFERENCE TO MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Appendix A, which is a part of the present disclosure, is a microfiche appendix consisting of four (4) sheets of microfiche having a total of 321 frames. Microfiche Appendix A is a listing of Software code for embodiments of components of this invention, which are described more completely below.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to data processing systems and, in particular, to pricing and analysis systems for complex transactions.

Discussion of Related Art

Financial services companies (FSCs), such as retail banks, wholesale banks, corporate banks and investment banks, provide a variety of financial services which are

bundled together and offered to clients as financial products. Checking accounts, cash management accounts, mortgages, funds transfers and lockboxes are all examples of financial products. A financial transaction takes place when a client uses a financial service and when a FSC provides a financial service.

In a competitive market, FSCs have to balance their need to grow market share by having competitive (i.e. low) fee arrangements, against the need to run their businesses profitably (i.e. with high margins). Managing this balancing act has been a challenge for FSCs because the traditional practices used by FSCs provide insufficient detail about how individual financial transactions affect their profitability. With insufficient details FSCs are not able to provide consistent and reconcilable measures for different views of costs and fees which may be desired. FSCs would desire views such as a client view because the business is conducted by clients, a market segment view because the business is measured by market segments, and a financial product view because the business is organized by financial products.

Costs can vary greatly based on the types of financial transactions being processed and characteristics of each individual financial transaction. For example, in funds transfers, costs can vary based on the participant (corporate, retail, correspondent, broker/dealer); the instruction (free form, semi repetitive, pre programmed); the timing (start of day, end of day, urgent, late); the instrument (cash, checks, payment orders, electronic instruction capture devices); the delivery system (SWIFT); the clearing system; settlement itself; credit/risk (daylight overdraft limits, balances, secured/unsecured

debit caps); applicable transaction taxes; investigations; and compensations. Failure by a FSC to understand or accurately measure the cost of processing each individual financial transaction makes it very difficult for the FSC  
 5 to manage the impact of their pricing arrangements on the profitability of their financial services, financial products and financial transactions.

Fees can also vary greatly based on the types of financial transactions being processed and characteristics  
 10 of each individual financial transaction. For example, in funds transfers, fee arrangements can be based on time of submission; a specified execution time; the window of time between submission and execution; transaction value; pre-assigned payment slots; or a combination of these factors.  
 15 Furthermore, fee arrangements may change over time both in value and structure in response to competitive situations.

To manage the profitability outcomes of financial services, financial products and financial transactions, a FSC needs to understand and accurately measure fees  
 20 earned based on each individual financial transaction processed. Furthermore, FSCs wish to manage fee arrangements and special deals based on the profit margins achievable.

However, understanding and accurately measuring the  
 25 impact of costs and fee arrangements on the profitability of financial services, financial products and financial transactions is too complex to be handled in an ad hoc manner. Therefore, a systematic method to track all of the components of costs and fees each time a financial  
 30 transaction is processed is needed. Furthermore, the system should be able to measure profitability in a flexible manner and to measure the impact of any changes

from as many views as the FSC's business requires, e.g.,  
by financial product, by financial service, by financial  
transaction, by client account, by client, by group of  
clients, by market segment, and by region, by strategic  
5 business unit.

# SUMMARY

Accordingly, the present invention includes methods  
and systems for defining financial transaction components;  
10 defining mapping rules for taking individual financial  
transactions; and breaking financial transactions into  
components, such as production services, billing services  
and settlement services. A FSC, using embodiments of the  
present invention, can track components, assign costs to  
15 components, assign fees to components, measure  
profitability of financial transactions from multiple  
views, and measure the impact of changes to costs and fees  
on profitability of financial transactions from multiple  
views.

20 Specifically, a data processing system in accordance  
with one embodiment of the present invention, creates a  
transaction instance corresponding to a financial  
transaction, creates a production service instance linked  
to the transaction instance by a first relation instance,  
25 and creates a billing service instance linked to the  
production service instance by a second relation instance.  
The data processing system, may also create other  
production service instances linked to the transaction  
instance using other relation instances, as well as, other  
30 billing service instances linked to the production service  
instances.

A data processing system in accordance with another embodiment of the invention, includes account instances which are linked to transaction instances. The account instances may also be related to client instances.

5 Furthermore, the data processing system may include price table instances related to an entity instance, such as a transaction instance, an account instance, a client instance, or a department instance. The price table instances contain prices for various billing service  
10 instances.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1(a) illustrates mapping rules for a transaction type.

15 Figure 1(b) illustrates the mapping of a transaction instance into production service instances.

Figure 1(c) illustrates mapping rules for a transaction type.

20 Figure 1(d) illustrates a table used to store information.

Figure 2 illustrates mapping rules for a transaction type.

Figure 3(a) illustrates mapping rules for a production service type.

25 Figure 3(b) illustrates the mapping of a production service instance into billing service instances.

Figure 4 illustrates a production service type mapped to other production service types.

30 Figure 5 illustrates mapping rules for a production service type.

Figure 6 illustrates mapping rules for a plurality of production service types.

Figure 7(a) illustrates management of clients and client accounts.

Figure 7(b) illustrates use of price table instances to price billing services.

5        Figure 7(c) is one embodiment of a price table instance.

Figure 8 illustrates management of market segments.

Figure 9 illustrates mapping rules for a billing service type.

10       Figure 10 is a flowchart for the data processing system.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

According to the principles of this invention,  
15       certain limitations imposed by conventional pricing systems have been overcome. The present invention provides a data processing system which breaks down a client transaction into various components provided by the FSC. Conversion to components is not a simple task  
20       because each transaction requires analysis at an "atomic level" of detail which has not been used before. This atomic level of detail allows a FSC to determine the cost of each individual financial transaction, in component parts, which in turn, enables the FSC to determine an  
25       appropriate fee which should be charged so that the FSC can make an informed choice to balance the need for low fees against the need for high margins, resulting in better managed profitability outcomes.

By using flexible mapping rules between transactions  
30       and services, the present invention allows FSCs to easily monitor the costs of transactions involving multiple services by client, by financial product, by market

segment or by any other view which a FSC deems necessary. Thus, the same principles can be applied to easily monitor the billing of clients when fees are used instead of costs. The same principles can be applied to easily  
5 monitor the profitability for processing transactions when both costs and fees are included.

A suitable database system for implementing a data processing system in accordance with the present invention is described in U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899 entitled "DATA  
10 RELATIONSHIPS PROCESSOR WITH UNLIMITED EXPANSION CAPABILITY," which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. However, other database systems can be used to implement a data processing system using the principles described herein. For clarity, the language of U.S.  
15 Patent No. 5,604,899 is used herein. Thus various elements of the pricing system are described as entity types while other elements are described as relation types. Occurrences of an entity type are described as entity instances while occurrences of a relation type are  
20 described as relation instances.

Figure 1(a), illustrates the breakdown of transaction type into production service types in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Generally, financial services are bundled together and offered to clients as  
25 financial products. Checking accounts, cash management accounts, mortgages, funds transfers and lockboxes are all examples of financial products. A financial transaction takes place when a client uses a financial service and when a FSC provides a financial service. Each transaction  
30 is categorized into a transaction type, which is an entity type as used in U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899. Thus, the services provided by the FSC can be priced on the



transaction level. By grouping transactions together, the financial services provided can also be priced at the account level, at the client level or at any other level which can be related to transactions. By breaking the

5 transaction down into components such as production services the financial services provided to the client can be priced based on the production services which were involved in processing each transaction.

Production services are the individual actions that

10 the FSC must perform or that the FSC wishes to count to process the transaction completely. Some production services may involve a cost to the FSC some production services may involve a fee which can be charged and some production services may involve actions which the FSC

15 simply wishes to count. For example, in funds transfers, production services can be based on the participant (corporate, retail, correspondent, broker/dealer); the instruction (free form, semi repetitive, pre programmed); the timing (start of day, end of day, urgent, late); the

20 instrument (cash, checks, payment orders, electronic instruction capture devices); the delivery system (SWIFT); the clearing system; settlement itself; credit/risk (daylight overdraft limits, balances, secured/unsecured debit caps); applicable transaction taxes; or

25 investigations and compensations. Each production services is categorized into at least one production service type, which is also an entity type.

Specifically in Figure 1(a), a transaction type 110, is mapped to a plurality of production service types, each

30 of the mapping rules illustrated by arrows are relation instance types. Thus, transaction type 110 is mapped to production service type 130 by a relation type 120,

production service type 150 by a relation type 140, and  
production service type 170 by relation type 160. On  
average, a payment transaction can be mapped to 11 or more  
production service types. Relation types 140, 150, and  
5 160 may use cardinality properties of one-to-one,  
one-to-many, many-to-one, or many-to-many mappings as  
described in U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899. For example, 2 or  
more transaction instances of the same transaction type  
could be mapped to a single production instance or 2 or  
10 more transaction instances of different transaction types  
could be mapped to a single production instance.

When a transaction of transaction type 110 occurs the  
data processing systems creates relations instances and  
production services as dictated by the mapping rules shown  
15 in Figure 1(a). To distinguish the actual transaction  
performed by the FSC from the representation of the  
transaction in the data processing system, the  
representation of a transaction is called a transaction  
instance. Similarly, a production service instance is the  
20 representation of a specific production service performed  
by the FSC. Thus, as shown in Figure 1(b), the data  
processing system maps transaction instance 111 of  
transaction type 110 to a production service instance 131  
of production service type 130 through a relation instance  
25 121 of relation type 120. Similarly, the data processing  
system maps transaction instance 111 of transaction type  
110 to production service instance 151 of production  
service type 150 through relation instance 141 of relation  
type 140 and production service instance 171 of production  
30 service type 170 through relation instance 161 of relation  
type 160. Transaction instances of transaction type 110  
do not necessarily include production service instances of

production service type 130, production service type 150, and production service type 170. However, some relation types can include a mandatory property as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899, to mandate the presence of a  
5 relation instance of that relation type and to mandate the presence of a production service instance of a particular production service type.

If the data processing system of U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899 is used, transaction instance 111, production  
10 service instance 131, production service instance 151, and production service instance 171, which are all entity instances, would be stored in one or more entity instance tables. Conversely, relation instance 121, relation instance 141, and relation instance 161 would be stored in  
15 one or more relation instance tables.

Mapping rules for transaction types may also depend on the value of the transaction. For example, the value of a transaction may determine whether an overdraft approval is required to process the transaction. If an  
20 overdraft approval is required, an overdraft production service is included. Furthermore, overdraft approval for a small amount of money may involve different production services than one for a large amount of money. Thus if production service type 170 represents an overdraft  
25 production some transactions instances of transaction type 110 need not include a production service instance of production service type 170.

In embodiments of the data processing system using multi-tailed relations such as those described in U.S.  
30 Patent No. 5,604,899, a single relation type can map one entity type to one of several entity types. Thus as shown in Figure 1(c), the mapping rules can use a relation type

180 to map transaction instances of transaction type 110 to a production service instance of production service type 130, or production service type 150, or production service type 170. Upon receiving a transaction of transaction type 110, a data processing system using the mapping rules illustrated by Figure 1(c) would create a transaction instance of transaction type 110 and maps the transaction instance to a production service instance of production service type 130, a production service instance of production service type 150, or a production service instance of production type 170 through a relation instance of relation type 180.

Figure 1(d) shows an alternate way to store information about transaction instances of transaction type 110. A table 190 having multiple columns and rows is used to store entity instance information. Each row of table 190, for example row 195 or row 196, contains information for one transaction instance. Column 191 contains a transaction instance identifier. Thus row 195 contains information about transaction instance 114 while row 196 contains information about transaction instance 113. Column 192 contains a count of the number of production service instances of a particular production service type which have been mapped to the transaction instance in the row. Thus transaction instance 114 has been mapped to 1 production service instance of the production service type tracked by column 192. For example, column 192 could track production service type 130 (Figure 1(c)), column 193 could track production service type 150; and column 194 could track production service type 170. Table 190 is suited for cases when only the number of production services of each production type

used is needed. If specific information of each transaction is unnecessary, column 191 can contain a transaction type identifier so that all transactions of a particular transaction type are tracked in one row. When  
 5 table 190 is used, the production service instances represented by columns 192, 193 and 194 are implicitly related to the transaction instances represented by column 191 as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899.

Figure 2, illustrates the mapping rules for  
 10 transaction instances of a second transaction type into production service instances of different production service types. In Figure 2, a transaction type 210 is mapped to a production service type 230 through a relation type 220, to a production service type 150 through a  
 15 relation type 240 and a production service type 270 through a relation type 260. Thus different transaction types can share production service types, since both transaction type 210 and transaction type 110 (Figure 1(a)) are mapped to production service type 150. For  
 20 example, whether a client uses an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) owned by the FSC or an ATM leased by the FSC one of the production services required by an ATM withdrawal transaction may involve a production service type which represents the cost of storing cash in the ATM.

25 Production services are further mapped into billing services. Typically, billing services represent activities which involve costs to the FSC and or activities which involve fees to be charged. One or more billing service may be associated with one or more  
 30 production service. Figures 3(a), 3(b), 4, 5, and 6 illustrate some possible mapping rules from production service types to billing service types.

Figure 3(a) illustrates a typical mapping of a single production service type 310 to a plurality of billing service types. Specifically, production service type 310 is mapped to billing service type 330 by relation type 320, to billing service type 350 by relation type 340, and to billing service type 370 by production service type 360. Thus as shown in Figure 3(b) when a production service instance 311 of production type 310 is created, the data processing system creates a billing service instance 331 of billing service type 330 related to the production service instance 311 by a relation instance 321 of relation type 320, a billing service instance 351 of billing service type 350 related to production service instance 311 by a relation instance 341 of relation type 340, and a billing service instance 371 of billing service type 370 related to production service instance 311 by a relation instance 361 of relation type 360.

Some embodiments of the data processing system allow mapping of production services to other production services. Figure 4 illustrates the mapping rules for a production service type 410. Specifically, production service type 410 is mapped to a production service type 430 by relation type 420, to production service type 450 by relation type 440, and to production service type 470 by relation type 460. When a production service instance of production type 410 is created, the data processing system creates production service instances of production service types 430 450 and 460 linked to the production service instance of production service type 410 by relation instances of relation types 420, 440, and 460, respectively.

A production service may at times be mapped to different sets of billing services. For example, a FSC formed by the merger of two FSC may have had different contracts with the same client. The client may insist on getting the best price the client would have received from either of the premerged FSCs. Furthermore, using multiple mapping rules for production service types facilitates having different views as described above. An example mapping rule for a production service type 510 is given in Figure 5. Production service type 510 is mapped to billing service type 520 by relation type 525, billing service type 530 by relation type 535, and billing service type 540 by relation type 545. Production service type 510 is separately mapped to billing service type 560 by relation type 565 and billing service type 570 by relation type 575. Thus when a production service instance of production service type 510 is created, the data processing system creates a relation instance of relation type 525 which maps the production service instance to a billing service instance of billing service type 520, a relation instance of relation type 535 which maps the production service instance to a billing service instance of billing service type 530, and a relation instance of relation type 545 which maps the production service to a billing service instance of billing service type 540. In addition, the data processing system creates a relation instance of relation instance type 565 which maps the production service instance to a billing service instance of billing service type 560 and a relation instance of relation type 575 which maps the production service instance to a billing service instance of billing service type 570.

In some FSCs, the cost of multiple production services are calculated together. Thus in some embodiments of the data processing system, multiple production service instances are mapped to one or more  
5 billing service instances. Figure 6, illustrates a mapping rule for a set of production service types 610 to a set of billing services types 620 by relation type 630. Also as shown in Figure 6, a set of production service types 610 is also mapped to billing services type 640 by  
10 relation type 650. Furthermore, Figure 6 illustrates that billing service types can be mapped to additional billing service types. Thus billing service type 640 is mapped to billing service type 660 by relation type 670 and to billing service type 690 by relation type 680.

15 Thus, if a transaction instance is mapped to a group of production service instances which includes a production service instance of production service type 611, a production service instance of production service type 612, and a production service instance of production  
20 service type 613, the data processing system creates a billing service instance of billing service type 621, a billing service instance of billing service type 622, and a billing service instance of billing service type 623 related to the production service instances by a relation  
25 instance of relation type 630. In addition the data processing system creates a billing service instance of billing service type 640 related to the set of production service instances by a relation instance of relation type 650. Furthermore, the data processing system creates a  
30 billing service instance of billing service type 660 and a billing service instance of billing service type 690 related to the billing service instance of billing service



type 640 by a relation instance of relation type 670 and a relation instance of relation type 680, respectively.

To effectively analyze the transactions, production services and billing services the data processing system also relates the transaction instances and therefore the production service instances and billing service instances, which are related to the transaction instances as described above, to clients, accounts, products, and/or market segments. Initially, client instances are created in the data process system to represent clients. Similarly, account instances are created to represent accounts at the FSC. Client instances and account instances would be entity instances in the database system of U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899.

Figure 7(a) illustrates a typical data structure for tracking a client. In Figure 7(a) a client is represented in the data processing system by a client instance 710. Some or all of the client's accounts represented by account instances such as account instance 720 and account instance 730, which are related to client instance 710 by relation instance 725 and relation instance 735, respectively. When the client conducts a transaction with the FSC, an entity instance for the transaction, for example transaction instance 750, of the appropriate transaction type is created. Transaction instance 750 is mapped to the appropriate client account, in this case account 730, by a relation instance 760. The data processing system also creates the appropriate production service instances and billing service instances as described above. If the FSC only needs to track production service instances used at the account or client level, the database system can store information in a

table such as table 190 (Figure 1(d)). In such a situation, column 191 would contain an account instance identifier or a client instance identifier.

The actual cost and or the actual fee for a billing service type is recorded in a price table instance which is usually related to the department managing the product, the client, the account, or any other entity instance to which the transaction instance can be related either directly or indirectly. Figure 7(b) illustrates the use of price table instances. Transaction instance 750 is mapped to one or more production service instances 760 through one or more relation instances 754 as described above. One or more production services instances 760 is mapped to one or more billing service instances 770 through one or more relation instances 764 as described above. Each billing service type to which transaction instance 750 is mapped is related to one or more price table instances via relation instances between the price table instances and the transaction instances, the account instances of the transaction instances, the client instances of the account instances, or the department instances assigned to managing the client. Thus as illustrated in Figure 7(b), client instance 710 is mapped to department instance 780 through relation instance 783. Transaction instance 750 may be related to a price table instance 757 through relation instance 756. Similarly, account instance 730 may be related to a price table instance 737 through a relation 736; client instance 710 may be related to a price table instance 717 through relation instance 716; and department instance 780 may be related to a price table instance 787 through a relation instance 786. Each of the price tables is optional

depending on whether the FSC has specific pricing rules for the transaction, account, client or department. Furthermore, each of the price tables may be shared by other transactions, accounts, or clients. Thus, for

5 example, price table instance 737 may be related to other account instances. The data pricing system typically includes a global price table instance which can be used if no other price table instances is related to a billing service instance. Specifically, one embodiment of the

10 pricing system includes a FSC entity instance representing the FSC itself. The FSC entity instance is related to the global price table via a mandatory relation instance. The FSC entity instance is also related to each of the department instances.

15 Whether a transaction, account, or client is related to a price table instance depends on whether the FSC and the client has negotiated a specific fee structure for the transaction, account or client. For example, if the FSC and the client has negotiated special prices to perform a

20 specific transaction, the transaction instance representing that transaction is related to a price table instance representing the negotiated prices. Similarly, a price table instance is used with an account instance or client instance, if the FSC has a specific price structure

25 for the account or client, respectively. The same principles can be applied to provide custom pricing based on billing service type and billing service type within account instances. As explained above since price tables may be shared by multiple transactions, accounts, or

30 clients; a specific transaction instance, account instance, or client instance may be related to more than one price table instance when custom pricing is needed.

Thus, for example, account instance 730 may also be related to a custom price table by a relation instance of a "custom rules" relation type. The custom price table contains pricing information which supersedes pricing information in price table instance 737.

Compound queries can be used to determine the appropriate price table instance as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899. Thus, if the FSC wishes to determine the cost of servicing the client represented by client instance 710, the FSC can query the data processing system to find all the billing service instances, including billing service instances 770, used by the client. The data processing system begins by finding account instances, such as account instance 730 and account instance 720 (Figure 7(a)), linked to client instance 710, then proceeds to find the transaction instances, such as transaction instance 750, linked to those account instances, then finds the production service instances, such as production service instances 760, linked to the transaction instances, then finds the billing service instances, such as billing service instances 770, linked to the production services, then finds price (cost) table instances linked to the transaction instances, the account instances, the client instances, or department instances, then selects one or more of these retrieved price tables instances to determine the actual cost of the billing service instances for servicing the client. Compound queries to retrieve specific types of information are also possible. For example, the FSC can retrieve only billing services linked to a transaction instance of a specified transaction type.

Implementation of compound queries are described in U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899.

Typically, as each billing service instance is tallied, the cost or fee for the billing service instance is retrieved from only one price table instance. Generally, if a price table instance is associated with the transaction instance containing the billing service type of the billing service instance, that price table instance is used. Then the price table instance associated with the account instance, the client instance, and the department instance are used. Finally, if none of the other price tables contain the billing service type, the global price table instance is used. Thus if a billing service instance in billing service instances 770 is being tallied, the data base system attempts to price the billing service instance by using price table instance 757. If the billing service type is not in price table instance 757, the database system uses price table instance 737, then price table instance 717, then price table instance 787, and finally the global price table instance until the price of the billing service type is located. However, FSCs may choose to use other access schemes by using compound queries to choose specific price table instances to use.

Figure 7(c) shows one embodiment of a price table instance 790. Price table instance 790 is a table with two columns and multiple rows. First column 791 stores a billing service type in each row. Second column 792 contains the cost or fee of the billing service type in the row. Optional column 793 contains a minimum limit for the billing service type. The minimum limit is used to perform tiered pricing based on volume. For example, a

billing service type may have three different entries in price table instance 790. The minimum limit for each entry and the cost or fee for each entry differs. Thus the price used for the billing service type depends on the number of billing service instances of the billing service type.

In some embodiments of the data processing system, price table instances include both costs and fees. In other embodiments, cost table instances which only contain costs and fee table instances which only contain fees are used. In some embodiments of the database system, each fee table instances must be related to a cost table instance. The presence of the cost table instance can be mandated by using mandatory properties on a relation instance relating the fee table instance to a cost table instance.

The FSC can also further refine queries by categorizing the transactions by other criteria such as market segments. As shown in Figure 8, transaction instance 750 can also be mapped to a market segment instance 810 by relation instance 830 in addition to being linked to account instance 730 (Figure 7(a)). Other market segment instances such market segment instance 820 are linked with other transaction instances such as transaction instance 840. Thus, the FSC can query the data processing systems for transactions by client 710 in market segment 810 to find transaction instance 750 and the production service instances and billing service instances of transaction instance 750.

The data processing system can be enhanced to include functions of a billing system by including settlement services. Settlement services represent methods to

collect the fees for a transaction from the client. For example, different settlement service types include sending a bill to the client, offsetting interest from a client's account for the fee, and deducting the fee from a client's account. Figure 9 illustrates the mapping rules for a billing service type 910 which is mapped to a settlement service type 920 by a relation type 930. Typically only billing service types which include a fee are mapped to settlement services. Like the mapping of production service instances to billing service instances, the mapping of billing service instances to settlement service instances can include mappings of one billing service instance to one settlement service instance, one billing service instance to multiple settlement service instances, multiple billing service instances to one settlement service instances, and multiple billing service instances to multiple settlement service instances.

During a billing cycle, typically monthly, the data processing system processes each transaction to create transaction instances, production service instances, billing service instances, and settlement service instances, as described above. At the end of the billing cycle, the FSC can query the data processing system for all of the settlement service instances of a particular client to collect the appropriate fee in the appropriate manner from the client. However the FSC must insure that the data processing system does not overcharge the client by including fees which are already settled in another manner. For example, in "deduct-fee" transactions, the FSC's fee is included in the transaction amount. For example, a FSC may charge \$10 to transfer \$1,000 from a client's account in Texas to an account in California.

The FSC would deduct \$1,010 from the account in Texas but only credit \$1,000 to the account in California. These "deduct fee" transactions can be marked by using relation instances of a special "deduct fee" relation type to  
5 relate a transaction instance to production service instances, or to relate a production service instance to billing service instances, or to relate a billing service instance to settlement service instances, or by using "deduct fee" billing service types, or by using "deduct  
10 fee" settlement service types.

Figure 10 is a flow chart which illustrates the creation of a database for a client in a data processing system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. The FSC must first create mapping rules for  
15 the various transaction types that clients may request. When the FSC obtains a new client, a client instance is created in create client 1010. If necessary, a price table instance related to the client instance is created in create price table 1015. In create accounts 1020, the  
20 data processing system creates account instances for the client. For each account instance, a price table instance related to the account instance can be created in creates price tables 1025 if a price table is needed for an account. When the client conducts a transaction with the  
25 FSC, the FSC enters the transaction into the data processing system which creates a transaction instance in create transaction instance 1030. If a special pricing table is needed for the transaction, the FSC can create a pricing table instance related to the transaction instance  
30 in create price tables 1035. The data processing system then follows the mapping rules to create production service instances and relation instances for the



transaction in create production service 1040, as described above. Then, the data processing system creates the appropriate billing service instances and relation instances in create billing services 1050, as described  
5 above. In some embodiments, the data processing system creates settlement service instances and relation instances in create settlement services 1060, as described above. As each the client conducts more transactions, each transaction is entered into the data processing at  
10 create transaction 1030 to produce the appropriate production service instances, billing service instances, settlement service instances, and relation instances for that transaction. As explained above, the transaction may also be linked to various market segment instances or  
15 entity instances corresponding to other criteria.

Once the data processing for the client includes enough transactions, the FSC can analyze the cost incurred to maintain the client. As explained above, the FSC can use complex queries to retrieve the billing service  
20 instances used by the client and related price tables to determine the cost of maintaining the client. Once the cost is determined, the FSC can renegotiate the contract with the client so that the fees charged to the client can better reflect the cost required to support the client.

Furthermore, as explained above, the various transactions can be linked to entity instances representing various categories that the FSC may track. Thus, by using a data processing system in accordance with the present invention a FSC is able to track the costs and  
30 fees of its operations by any criteria defined by the FSC. A specific embodiment of a data processing system in accordance with the present invention for use with the

database system of U.S. Patent No. 5,604,899 is provided in Appendix A.

In the various embodiments of this invention, methods and structures have been described that eliminate the  
 5 difficulties in pricing complex financial transactions. By mapping transactions into production services and billing services a FSC can track the cost of performing the services required by client. Thus a data processing system in accordance with the present invention allows a  
 10 FSC to accurately measure the profitability of the FSC as well as analyze the business of the FSC by various market segments or other categories.

The various embodiments of the structures and methods of this invention that are described above are  
 15 illustrative only of the principles of this invention and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the particular embodiments described. In view of this disclosure, those skilled-in-the-art can define other transaction types, production service types, billing  
 20 service types, price tables, data processing systems, settlement service types, mapping rules, relation types, and use these alternative features to create a method, circuit, or system according to the principles of this invention.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for pricing financial transactions,  
said method comprising:
  - 5 creating a transaction instance corresponding to a financial transaction;  
creating a first production service instance linked to said transaction instance by a first relation instance;  
and
  - 10 creating a billing service instance linked to said first production service instance by a second relation instance.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising  
15 creating a second production service instance linked to said transaction instance by said first relation instance.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising  
creating a second billing service instance linked to said  
20 first production service instance by said second relation instance.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising  
creating a second production service instance linked to  
25 said transaction instance by a third relation instance.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising  
creating a second billing service linked to said first  
production service instance by a third relation instance.

30

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a third relation instance linking said transaction instance to an account instance.

5 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said account instance is linked to a client instance by a fourth relation instance.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising  
10 creating a fourth relation instance linking said transaction instance to an entity instance.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said entity instance is a market segment instance.

15 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing said transaction instance, said production service instance and said billing service instance in at least one entity instance table.

20 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising storing said first relation instance and said second relation instance in at least one relation instance table.

25 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a settlement service instance linked to said billing service instance by a third relation instance.

30 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
creating a price table instance related to said transaction instance;

wherein said price table instance contains a price  
for said billing service instance.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said price table  
5 instance is a cost table instance and said price is a  
cost.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said price table  
instance is a fee table instance and said price is a fee.  
10

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising  
creating a cost table instance related to said fee table  
instance by a mandatory relation instance.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
creating an entity instance related to said  
transaction instance; and  
creating a price table instance related to said  
entity instance;  
20 wherein said price table instance contains a price  
for said billing service instance.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said entity  
instance is an account instance.  
25

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
creating a first entity instance related to said  
transaction instance;  
creating a second entity instance related to said  
30 first entity instance; and  
creating a first price table instance related to said  
second entity instance;

wherein said first price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said first  
5 entity instance is an account instance and said second entity instance is a client instance.

21. The method of claim 19, further comprising  
creating a second price table instance related to first  
10 entity instance.

22. A method for pricing financial transactions,  
said method comprising:  
creating a transaction instance corresponding to a  
15 financial transaction; and  
creating a first plurality of production service instances linked to said transaction instance by a first relation instance.

20 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising creating a billing service instance linked to said first plurality of production service instances by a second relation instance.

25 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising creating a plurality of billing service instances linked to said first plurality of production services by a second relation instance.

30 25. A data processing system for pricing financial transactions, said data processing system comprising:

means for creating a transaction instance  
corresponding to a financial transaction;

means for creating a first production service  
instance linked to said transaction instance by a first  
5 relation instance; and

means for creating a billing service instance linked  
to said first production service instance by a second  
relation instance.

10 26. The data processing system of Claim 25, further  
comprising means for creating a second production service  
instance linked to said transaction instance by said first  
relation instance.

15 27. The data processing system of claim 25, further  
comprising means for creating a second billing service  
instance linked to said first production service instance  
by said second relation instance.

20 28. The data processing system of claim 25, further  
comprising means for creating a second production service  
instance linked to said transaction instance by a third  
relation instance.

25 29. The data processing system of claim 25, further  
comprising means for creating a second billing service  
linked to said first production service instance by a  
third relation instance.

30 30. The data processing system of claim 25, further  
comprising means for creating a third relation instance  
linking said transaction instance to an account instance.

31. The data processing system of claim 30, wherein said account instance is linked to a client instance by a fourth relation instance.

5

32. The data processing system of claim 25, further comprising means for creating a fourth relation instance linking said transaction instance to an entity instance.

10

33. The data processing system of claim 25, further comprising at least one entity instance table to store said transaction instance, said production service instance and said billing service instance in.

15

34. The data processing system of claim 33, further comprising at least one relation instance table to store said first relation instance and said second relation instance.

20

35. The data processing system of claim 25, further comprising means for creating a settlement service instance linked to said billing service instance by a third relation instance.

25

36. The data processing system of claim 25, further comprising:

means for creating a price table instance related to said transaction instance;

wherein said price table instance contains a price  
30 for said billing service instance.



37. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein said price table instance is a cost table instance and said price is a cost.

5        38. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein said price table instance is a fee table instance and said price is a fee.

39. The data processing system of claim 38 further  
10 comprising means for creating a cost table instance related to said fee table instance by a mandatory relation instance.

40. The data processing system of claim 25, further  
15 comprising:  
      means for creating an entity instance related to said transaction instance; and  
      means for creating a price table instance related to said entity instance;  
20 wherein said price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

41. The data processing system of claim 25, further comprising:  
25 means for creating a first entity instance related to said transaction instance;  
      means for creating a second entity instance related to said first entity instance; and  
      means for creating a first price table instance  
30 related to said second entity instance;  
      wherein said first price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

42. The data processing system of claim 41, wherein said first entity instance is an account instance and said second entity instance is a client instance.

5

43. The data processing system of claim 41, further comprising means for creating a second price table instance related to first entity instance.

10 44. A data processing system for pricing financial transactions, said data processing system comprising:  
means for creating a transaction instance  
corresponding to a financial transaction; and  
means for creating a first plurality of production  
15 service instances linked to said transaction instance by a first relation instance.

45. The data processing system of claim 44, further comprising means for creating a billing service instance  
20 linked to said first plurality of production service instances by a second relation instance.

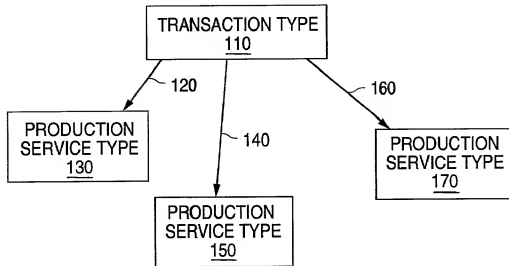
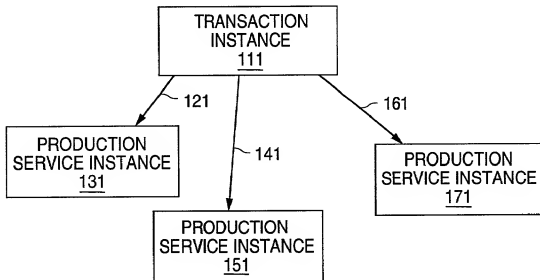
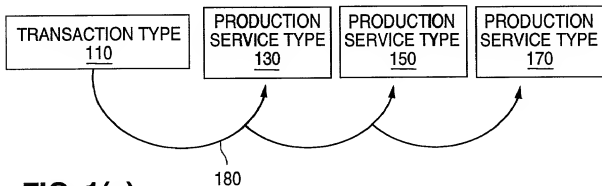
46. The data processing system of claim 45, further comprising means for creating a plurality of billing  
25 service instances linked to said first plurality of production services by a second relation instance.

DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM FOR COMPLEX  
PRICING AND TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS

Robert A. Foster

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides methods and systems for defining financial transaction components; defining mapping rules for taking individual financial transactions and breaking them down into their components, such as  
10 production services, billing services and settlement services. A data processing system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, creates a transaction instance corresponding to a financial transaction, creates a production service instance linked to the transaction  
15 instance by a first relation instance, and creates a billing service instance linked to the production service instance by a second relation instance. The data processing system, may also create other production service instances linked to the transaction instance using  
20 other relation instances, as well as, other billing service instances linked to the production service instances.

**FIG. 1(a)****FIG. 1(b)****FIG. 1(c)**

TRANSACTION INSTANCE IDENTIFIER 191	COUNT OF THE # OF PRODUCTION SERVICE INSTANCE OF PRODUCTION SERVICE TYPE 130 192	COUNT OF THE # OF PRODUCTION SERVICE INSTANCE OF PRODUCTION SERVICE TYPE 150 193	COUNT OF THE # OF PRODUCTION SERVICE INSTANCE OF PRODUCTION SERVICE TYPE 170 194
114	1	1	1
113	1	2	1

FIG. 1(d)

190

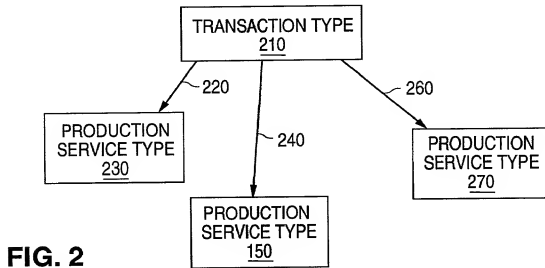


FIG. 2

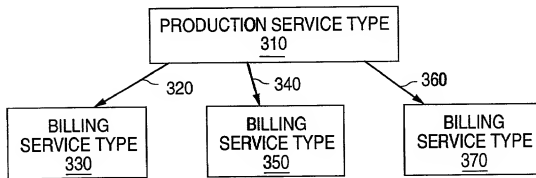
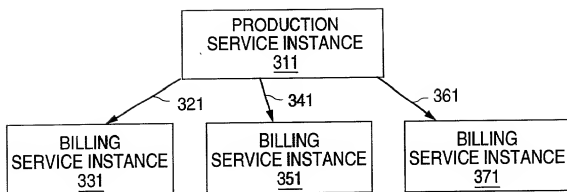
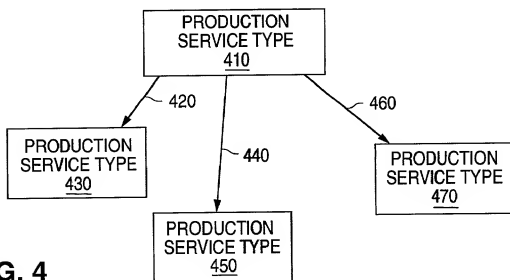
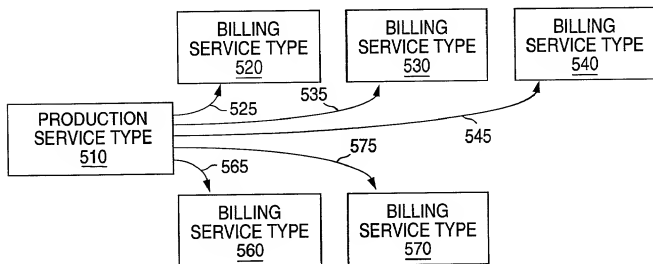


FIG. 3(a)

**FIG. 3(b)****FIG. 4****FIG. 5**

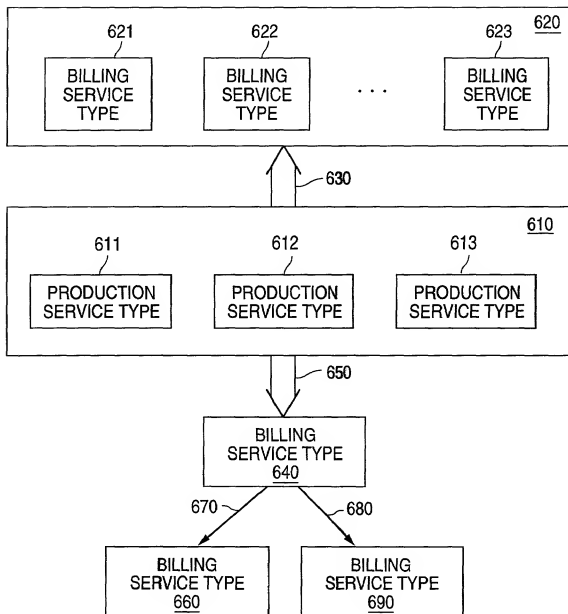
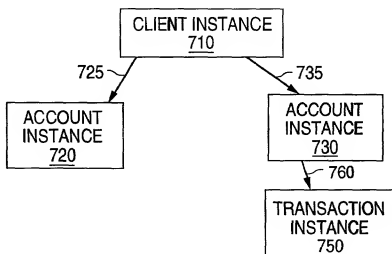


FIG. 6

FIG. 7(a)



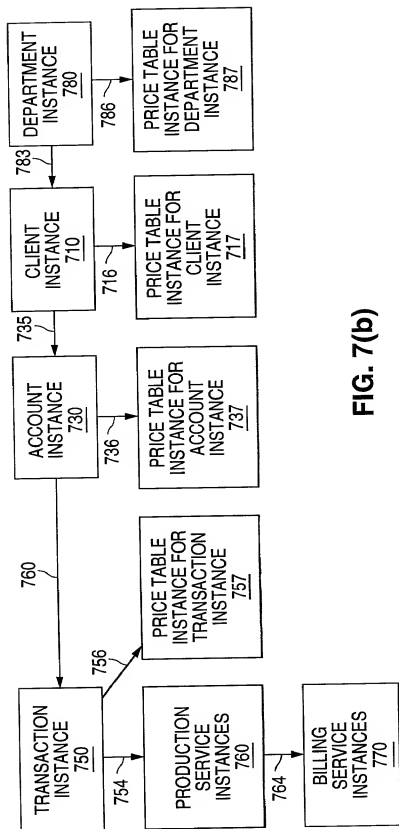


FIG. 7(b)

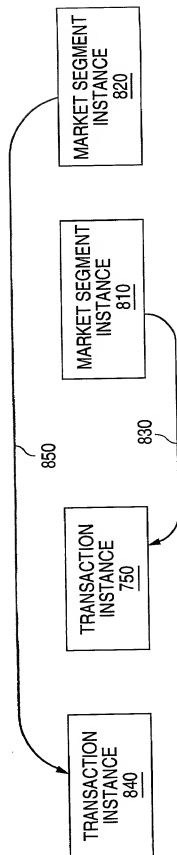
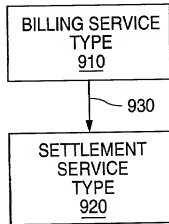
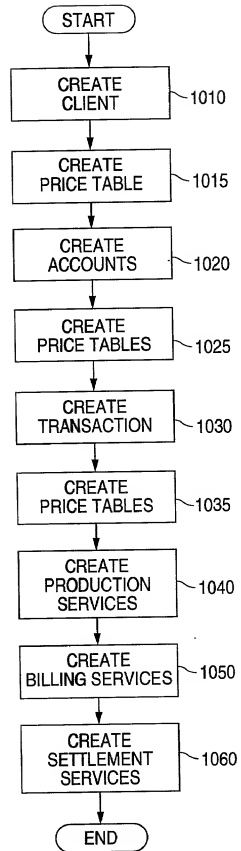


FIG. 8



790

791 BILLING SERVICE TYPE	792 COST OR FEE	793 MINIMUM

**FIG. 7(c)****FIG. 9****FIG. 10**

## DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below adjacent to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of subject matter (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or an improvement thereof) which is claimed and for which a patent is sought by way of the application entitled

Data Processing System For Complex Pricing and Transactional Analysis

which (check) ☐ is attached hereto.

☐ and is amended by the Preliminary Amendment attached hereto.

☒ was filed on August 1, 1997 as Application Serial No. 08/904,716

☐ and was amended on \_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Yes	No
N/A			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Provisional Application Number	Filing Date
N/A	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
N/A		

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Alan H. MacPherson (24,423); Thomas S. MacDonald (17,774); Richard Franklin (19,128); Kenneth E. Leeds (30,566); Brian D. Ogonowsky (31,988); David W. Heid (25,875); Guy W. Shoup (26,805); Forrest E. Gunnison (32,899); Norman R. Klivans (33,003); Edward C. Kwok (33,938); Patrick T. Bever (33,834); David E. Steuber (25,557); Michael Shenker (34,250); Laura Terlizzi (31,307); T. Lester Wallace (34,748); Ronald J. Meetin (29,089); Andrew C. Graham (36,531); Ken John Koestner (33,004); Stephen A. Terrile (32,946); Omkar K. Suryadevara (36,320); David T. Millers (37,396); E. Eric Hoffman (38,186); Kent B. Chambers (38,839); Emily M. Haliday (38,903); Arthur J. Behiel (39,603); Serge J. Hodgson (40,017); David M. Sigmond (34,013); David W. O'Brien (40,107); M. Kathryn Braquet Tsrigotis (34,127); Mark Zagorin (36,067); Michael P. Adams (34,763); Bernard Berman (37,279); Lawrence E. Lycke (38,540); and Frederick J. Zustak (36,728).

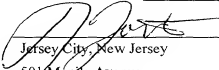
Please address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

Edward C. Kwok  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
**SKJERVEN, MORRILL, MacPHERSON, FRANKLIN & FRIEL LLP**  
25 Metro Drive, Suite 700  
San Jose, California 95110-1349

Telephone: 408-453-9200  
Facsimile: 408-453-7979

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, § 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole (or first joint) inventor: Robert A. Foster

Inventor's Signature: 

Date: Nov-3-1997

Residence: Jersey City, New Jersey

Post Office Address: 501 Mantla Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

Citizenship: Australian